

The Advocate

AND TOPEKA TRIBUNE.

OFFICIAL STATE PAPER.

N. R. P. A.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY
THE ADVOCATE PUBLISHING COMPANY,
Rooms 43 and 45 Knox Building,
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

ADVERTISING RATES.

For single insertion: Display matter, 20 cents per line, 14 lines to the inch. Reading notices, 40 cents per line. Discount for long-time contracts.

Chicago Office { Ind. Rural Press Assoc'n,
P. G. VAN VLIET, Mgr.
Boyce Building.

Entered at the postoffice at Topeka, Kansas, as
second class matter.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1894.



A PARTY that cannot run this government in times of profound peace without borrowing money confesses its incompetency, and ought to have the decency to go out of business without waiting to be kicked out.

THE public will take the reports of speeches at the Populist league and elsewhere as they appear in the Capital with all the allowances that the reputation of the Capital so well justifies. A very safe rule to adopt is to accept everything as precisely the opposite of the truth.

LOOK out for another issue of bonds. It is coming as sure as the morning sun. That golden idol, the 100 million surplus, has again been encroached upon by more shipments to Europe, and it will have to be replenished. Great country this, and great statesmen at the head of its affairs!

THE Kansas City Star is quite anxious that the republicans of Kansas shall make Coxeyism the issue in Kansas politics this year. Nothing would suit us better than to see the republican party assume just the attitude towards this movement that has been assumed by the Star, but it dare not do it.

FLETCHER MEREDITH, editor of the Hutchinson Interior-Herald, is the republican nominee for the legislature in Reno county. Mr. Meredith will make a valuable member, being thoroughly versed in public affairs, uncompromising in all that is right, reasonable and fair in all things, and with excellent judgment.—Kansas City Gazette, May 22.

Just so. Fletcher belongs to the Breckenridge school of politicians. He has experience. There is nothing like it.

THE editor of the Emporia Republican is quoting scripture to prove that woman suffrage is wrong, and must not be adopted. It is only a few years since that just such back

numbers were quoting scripture to justify chattel slavery and prove that it must not be disturbed. There always have been some men who came tramping along from half a century to a century behind the procession and probably there always will be.

THE THEORY OF OVERPRODUCTION.

Some time ago we had a somewhat extended discussion with the Topeka Capital respecting its theory that the overproduction of wheat is the cause of the decline in price. In the course of that discussion we demonstrated, by the use of official government statistics, two propositions.

(1) Taking the two census years, 1870 and 1890, in order to use nothing but government figures, we showed that the wheat remaining in the United States for home consumption in 1870, after deducting exports, was 5.4 bushels per head of our population, and the price was \$1.29. We showed that the amount remaining for home consumption in 1890 was only 4.7 bushels per head of our population and that the price was 83 cents. The exports in 1870 were 36,584,905 bushels. In 1890 the exports were 100,209,132 bushels. Thus with an increased export demand and with 1.8 bushels per head remaining in this country for home use less than in 1870, the price had declined 46 cents per bushel. Evidently some other cause than overproduction was responsible for this decline. What was it?

(2) Taking the United States army ration as a basis of calculation, we demonstrated that the American wheat crop of 1890 would fall 92,450,835 bushels short of supplying our own people if all were fed as well as the United States feeds her soldiers. Our demonstration was received with general satisfaction except in the Capital office, but a short time ago we received a request from some republicans in western Kansas who became interested in this discussion that we should procure of our state institutions a statement of their actual consumption and base a calculation upon this instead of the army ration. We now have the data for such a calculation and will proceed to give it. The actual consumption of flour per head of the public institutions that have reported is as follows:

	Ounces per day.
Penitentiary.....	13.5
Oswatomie Insane Asylum.....	12.56
Soldier's Home (Fort Dodge).....	12.5
Deaf and Dumb School (Olathe).....	9.5
Reform School (Topeka).....	14.5

This is an average in the above several state institutions that have reported of 13.47 ounces of flour per head per day, or 307.27 pounds per year. This is equivalent to 7.68 bushels of wheat per head per year.

Now let us take these figures as the basis of our calculation and see if there is an overproduction. The total population of the United States in 1890 was 62,622,250. We will deduct from this number one-fifth of the whole for children too young to eat bread, which must be admitted is a liberal allowance. This will leave 50,097,800 bread consumers. At 7.68 bushels of wheat per head per an-

num they would consume 384,751,104 bushels. It will be observed that this differs somewhat from our former calculation. Basing that upon the army ration which is supplied to adults only, after deducting one-fifth for children too young to eat bread, we also allowed only a half ration for another fifth. As the public institutions of the state include children as inmates it would not be fair to make the allowance that was made when we figured upon the basis of the army ration which goes only to adults.

Now, the total wheat product of the United States in 1890 was 399,662,250 bushels. Of this we exported 100,209,132 bushels, leaving 299,453,118 bushels for home consumption. Deduct from this 50,000,000 bushels as a conservative estimate of the annual consumption for seed and there remains for food 249,453,118 bushels. This is 135,297,986 bushels less than would be required to feed the people of the United States as well as the inmates of our state institutions are fed. Evidently there was no overproduction in 1890, and the low price of that year must be attributable to some other cause. What was it?

Now, in order that this calculation may not be fairly subject to criticism because of the small crop of 1890, let us see how the case stood in our maximum crop year, 1891. The total wheat crop of the United States that year was 611,780,000 bushels. We exported in 1891 225,665,812 bushels. There remained, therefore, for home use 386,114,188 bushels. Deduct from this 50,000,000 bushels for seed, and the remaining food supply would be 336,114,188 bushels. Of course there was some increase of the population over that of 1890, but we will consider it the same. The amount required to feed the American people as well as the inmates of our state institutions are fed we have shown to be 384,751,104 bushels. In this year of maximum production, therefore, there was a deficiency of 48,636,916 bushels. It must be quite apparent that there was no overproduction in 1891, and the low price of wheat that year, and the constantly declining price since that year, must be owing to some other cause. What is it?

We desire to repeat in this connection a statement of the secretary of agriculture to be found on page 419 of his report for 1892. Commenting upon a table in that report showing production, consumption for food, for seed and for export from 1881 to 1891, both inclusive, the secretary says:

This table gives, first, the estimates of production six months before the year's exports are completed, and before the records of distribution are made. What do we find as a result? An average production of 455,404,156; and an average distribution of 454,427,961 bushels. This leaves only a million bushels per annum for loss by fire and flood, which is not enough, showing that the estimates are inside of the known distribution.

It will be seen, therefore, that there is no overproduction, and there never has been; and the theory of low prices based upon such a presumption must be revised.

Take in connection with the facts here presented Dun's commercial re-

port dated February 16, 1894. Wheat was quoted in Chicago at 60½ cents, and this report says:

Wheat at 60½ cents is not only lower by ¼ cent than it was for a single day last year, but lower by 13¼ cents than it had ever been in the previous seventy-seven years.

Add to the above the following, dated May 15, 1894:

The Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin's statement of wheat stocks in the United States shows that east of the Rocky mountains the supply in sight is 23,000,000 bushels less than a year ago, and invisible stocks are probably 59,000,000 less than a year ago.

On the same day this trade bulletin was issued, wheat was quoted in Chicago at 55 cents, so that notwithstanding the very large decrease of the supply, and notwithstanding Dun said on February 16 that wheat at 60½ cents was 13¼ cents cheaper than it had previously been for seventy-seven years, the price is still on the decline. What is wrong with this theory of overproduction? Evidently something is out of joint. What is it?

IT WILL CROP OUT.

Notwithstanding Governor Felt has become disgusted with existing conditions and has shown himself capable of saying many good things respecting causes and remedies, his republican proclivities will crop out occasionally in a way that does him no credit either personally or politically. In the issue of the Champion of May 22, in an editorial upon the subject of Saunders' army, in which, of course, he attributes all the causes that produce such demonstrations to "Clevelandism," he says:

It ought to be noted in this connection that the Populists improved the first opportunity to show the arrant hypocrisy of their political pretensions. They profess to love laboring men and to sympathize with their cause, but now, when business is stagnated and millions of American people are suffering because honest laboring men are out of employment, the Populist and democratic "fixers" are making "trades" and "dickers" to secure another lease of power for Clevelandism in the American congress. The "armies" of restless, unemployed American laborers will continue to march so long as the bourbonism of Cleveland democracy controls national affairs.

Who does not know that there is not one solitary word of truth in this charge against Populists? Where are Populist and democratic fixers making "trades" and "dickers" to secure another lease of power to Clevelandism in the American congress? Governor Felt knows that no such thing is being done. Populists everywhere are determined that not only Clevelandism but republicanism also shall be deprived of another lease of power in the American congress if they can prevent it, for they know that armies of unemployed American laborers will continue to march so long as the bourbonism of either democracy or republicanism controls national affairs. The hypocrisy manifested upon this subject is in the claim of republican editors and politicians that Clevelandism is responsible for the conditions that produce the armies of restless, unemployed men. Governor Felt has failed to point out what laws have been changed since Cleveland's administration began or wherein Cleveland's